

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for allowing Claim 9, and indicating that Claims 6, 7, 15, 19 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has maintained Claims 6, 7, 15, 19 and 23 in dependent form inasmuch as Applicant believes the independent claims from which they depend are allowable for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1-5, 8, 10-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,764,724 (Ohlson). Applicant traverses this rejection.

As recited in independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26 and 27, Applicant's invention is directed to a radiographic apparatus having, at least, a top plate, an image receiver, and a (first) moving mechanism. The top plate is for supporting a subject. The image receiver is for receiving a radiographic image of the subject. The moving mechanism is for varying a position relative to the top plate and/or posture of the image receiver.

Independent Claim 1 further recites a second moving mechanism for vertically moving the top plate and the image receiver, and limiting means for limiting action of the second moving mechanism in accordance with the position of said image receiver relative to the top plate and/or the posture of the image receiver.

The Ohlson patent is directed to a patient table having a receptor unit for making X-ray photographs. The Office Action suggests that telescoping leg 1a in that patent corresponds to the limiting means of the present invention. However, telescoping leg 1a supports the patient table, enabling the table to be adjusted vertically, and has a predetermined movable range. Thus, Applicant submits that telescoping leg 1a corresponds more closely to the second moving mechanism of Claim 1. Applicant submits that the Ohlson patent fails to describe or suggest limiting means for limiting action of the

second moving mechanism *in accordance with the position of the image receiver relative to the top plate and/or the posture of the image receiver*, as recited in independent Claim 1.

Independent Claim 10 further recites a second moving mechanism for vertically moving the top plate and the image receiver, and an operation member, to be operated by an operator, for operating the second moving mechanism. The operation member is provided at a position difficult to be operated when the image receiver is in a horizontal posture at a side of the top plate.

Applicant submits that the Ohlson patent fails to describe or suggest an operation member that *is to be operated by an operator*, and which is provided at a position difficult to be operated when the image receiver is in a horizontal posture at a side of the top plate, as recited in independent Claim 10.

Independent Claim 14 further recites limiting means for limiting the movement of the top plate in a predetermined direction in accordance with the position of the image receiver relative to the top plate and/or the posture of the image receiver.

Applicant acknowledges that the Ohlson patent describes a movable top plate for supporting a subject. However, Applicant submits that the Ohlson patent does not describe or suggest limiting movement of the top plate in a predetermined direction *in accordance with the relative position and/or posture of the image receiver*, as recited in independent Claim 14.

Independent Claim 18 further recites limiting means for limiting change in posture of the image receiver *in accordance with a position of the top plate*. Applicant submits that the Ohlson patent fails to suggest or describe at least this feature of Claim 18.

Independent Claim 22 further recites limiting means for limiting movement of the top plate in the horizontal direction in accordance with the posture of the image

receiver and position of the top plate. Applicant submits that the Ohlson patent also fails to disclose or suggest limiting movement of the top plate in the horizontal direction *in accordance with the posture of the image receiver and position of the top plate.*

Independent Claim 26 further recites a shock absorbing member positioned between the top plate and the image receiver for avoiding direct collision therebetween, in a case in which (i) the top plate is moved toward the image receiver, not being in a horizontal posture, in the horizontal direction, or (ii) the posture of the image receiver is changed from a horizontal posture while the top plate is positioned within a predetermined range in the horizontal direction.

Applicant submits that the Ohlson patent fails to describe or suggest a top plate movable in a horizontal direction or the shock absorbing member recited in independent Claim 26.

Independent Claim 27 further recites that the moving mechanism comprises a locking mechanism for preventing the image receiver from moving in the horizontal direction when (i) the top plate (movable in a horizontal direction) is positioned within a predetermined range in the horizontal direction, and (ii) the image receiver is not in a horizontal posture.

Again, Applicant submits that the Ohlson patent does not describe or suggest a top plate movable in a horizontal direction. Also, Applicant submits that the Ohlson patent fails to describe or suggest a locking mechanism for preventing the image receiver from moving in the horizontal direction, in the manner recited in independent Claim 27.

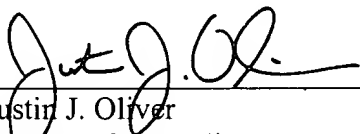
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26 and 27 are allowable over the Ohlson patent, and requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The remaining claims in the present application are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above, and thus are patentable over the applied patent for the reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. Further, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied document. Therefore, Applicant requests favorable and independent consideration thereof.

Applicant believes that all outstanding matters in this application have been attended to, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a notice thereof.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

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Attorney Docket No.: 03500.015084
Application No.: 09/770,667

**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW
THE CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus, comprising:

a top plate for supporting a subject;

an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of [said] the subject;

a first moving mechanism for varying [the] a position [of said image receiver] relative to said top plate and/or posture of said image receiver;

a [vertical] second moving mechanism for vertically moving said top plate and said image receiver; and

limiting means for limiting [the] action of said [vertical] second moving mechanism [according to] in accordance with the position of said image receiver relative to said top plate and/or posture of said image receiver.

2. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first moving mechanism comprises a guide mechanism for allowing said image receiver to change in position in [the] a horizontal direction relative to said top plate and/or in posture.

3. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first moving mechanism comprises a guide mechanism for guiding [the] movement of said

image receiver in [the] a horizontal direction, between a first position under said top plate and a second position at a side of said top plate.

4. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the action of said [vertical] second moving mechanism is limited in a case in which said image receiver is not [in] at said first position.

5. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a case in which said image receiver is [in] at a second position, the action of said [vertical] second moving mechanism is limited [in case] when said image receiver is in a horizontal posture and the action of said [vertical] second moving mechanism is not limited [in case] when said image receiver is in a vertical posture.

6. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said limiting means comprises a controller for controlling the action of said [vertical] second moving mechanism and a detector for detecting the position of said image receiver relative to said top plate and/or posture of said image receiver, [wherein] and said controller executes control of the action based on [the] a detection result of said detector.

7. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a detector for detecting, while said image receiver is in a horizontal posture at a

side of said top plate, an obstacle present [below] under said image receiver; wherein [the] a descending [operation] action of said [vertical] second moving mechanism is limited based on [the] a detection result of said detector.

8. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an operation member for operating said [vertical] second moving mechanism, wherein said operation member is provided [in] at a position difficult to operate when said image receiver is in a horizontal posture at a side of said top plate.

9. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus, comprising:

- a top plate for supporting a subject;
- an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of [said] the subject;
- a first moving mechanism for varying [the] a position [of said image receiver] relative to said top plate and/or posture of said image receiver;
- a [vertical] second moving mechanism for vertically moving said top plate and said image receiver; and
- a detector for detecting, while said image receiver is in a horizontal posture at a side of said top plate, an obstacle present [below] under said image receiver,

wherein [the] descending [operation] action of said [vertical] second moving mechanism is limited based on [the] a detection result of said detector.

10. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus, comprising:

- a top plate for supporting a subject;
- an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of said subject;
- a first moving mechanism for varying [the] a position [of said image receiver] relative to said top plate and/or posture of said image receiver;
- a [vertical] second moving mechanism for vertically moving said top plate and said image receiver; and
- an operation member, to be operated by an operator, for operating said [vertical] second moving mechanism;

wherein said operation member is provided [in] at a position difficult to operate when said image receiver is in a horizontal posture at a side of said top plate.

11. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1, 9 or 10, wherein said radiographic image is an X-ray image.

12. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising an X-ray generator for generating an X-ray.

13. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 1, 9 or 10, wherein said image receiver comprises one of a radiographic film, a photostimulable phosphor sheet [or] and a digital radiographic detector.

14. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus, comprising:
a top plate, movable in [the horizontal] a direction, for supporting a subject;
an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of [said] the subject;
a moving mechanism for varying [the] a position [of said image receiver in
the horizontal direction] relative to said top plate and/or [the] posture of said image
receiver; and

limiting means for limiting the movement of said top plate in a
predetermined direction in [case] accordance with [the posture of said image receiver is not
horizontal] the position of said image receiver relative to said top plate and/or the posture
of said image receiver.

15. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said limiting means comprises a detector for detecting the posture of said image receiver
and limits the movement of said top plate based on [the] a detection result of said detector.

16. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 14, wherein
said moving mechanism guides [the] movement of said image receiver in [the] a horizontal
direction between a first position [below] under said top plate and a second position at a
side of said top plate and also guides switching of said image receiver, [in] at said second
position, between a horizontal posture and a vertical posture.

17. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim [14, wherein] 16, wherein the horizontal direction is a direction of a shorter side of said top plate, and said limiting means limits the movement of said top plate in the [lateral direction] direction of the shorter side in accordance with the posture of said image receiver.

18. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus, comprising;
a top plate, movable in [the horizontal] a direction, for supporting a subject;
an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of [said] the subject;
a moving mechanism for varying [the] a position [of said image receiver in the horizontal direction] relative to said top plate and/or [the] posture of said image receiver; and

limiting means for limiting [the] change in the posture of said image receiver [according to the] in accordance with a position of said top plate.

19. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said limiting means comprises a detector for detecting the position of said top plate and limits the change in the posture of said image receiver based on [the] a detection result of said detector.

20. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said moving mechanism guides [the] movement of said image receiver in [the] a horizontal

direction between a first position [below] under said top plate and a second position at a side of said top plate and also guides switching of said image receiver, [in] at said second position, between a horizontal posture and a vertical posture.

21. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said limiting means limits the change [of] in the posture of said image receiver from horizontal to vertical.

22. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus, comprising:
a top plate, movable in [the] a horizontal direction, for supporting a subject;
an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of [said] the subject;
a moving mechanism for varying [the] a position [of said image receiver] in the horizontal direction relative to said top plate and [the] a posture of said image receiver;
and

limiting means for limiting [the] movement of said top plate in [a predetermined] the horizontal direction [in case] in accordance with the posture of said image receiver [is not horizontal and said top plate is positioned within a predetermined range] and position of said top plate.

23. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said limiting means comprises a first detector for detecting the posture of said image

receiver and a second detector for detecting the position of said top plate₁; wherein] and the movement of said top plate is limited based on [the] detection results of said first and second detectors.

24. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said moving mechanism guides [the] movement of said image receiver in the horizontal direction between a first position [below] under said top plate and a second position at a side of said top plate and also guides switching of said image receiver, [in] at said second position, between a horizontal posture and a vertical posture.

25. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the horizontal direction is a direction of a shorter side of said top plate, and said limiting means limits the movement of said top plate in [a the lateral direction] the direction of the shorter side when said top plate is positioned within a predetermined range in the direction of the shorter side.

26. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus₁ comprising:
a top plate₁ movable in [the] a horizontal direction, for supporting a subject;
an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of [said] the subject;

a moving mechanism for varying [the] a position [of said image receiver] in the horizontal direction relative to said top plate and [the] posture of said image receiver; and

a shock absorbing member positioned between said top plate and said image receiver for avoiding direct collision therebetween, in a case in which said top plate is moved toward said image receiver, not being in a horizontal posture, in [a] the horizontal direction [where said image receiver is present while the posture of said image receiver is not horizontal] or in a case in which the posture of said image receiver is changed from a horizontal posture while said top plate is positioned within a predetermined range in the horizontal direction.

27. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus, comprising:

a top plate, movable in [the] a horizontal direction, for supporting a subject;
an image receiver for receiving a radiographic image of [said] the subject;

and

a moving mechanism for varying [the] a position [of said image receiver] in the horizontal direction relative to said top plate and [the] posture of said image receiver;

wherein said moving mechanism comprises a locking mechanism for preventing said image receiver from moving in the horizontal direction [in case the posture of said image receiver is not horizontal] when said top plate is positioned within a

predetermined range in the horizontal direction and said image receiver is not in a horizontal posture.

28. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to any one of claims 14 to 27, further comprising a vertical moving mechanism for vertically moving said top plate and said image receiver.

29. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to any one of claims 14 to 27, wherein said radiographic image is an X-ray image.

30. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising an X-ray generator for generating X-ray.

31. (Amended) A radiographic apparatus according to any one of claims 14 to 27, wherein said image receiver comprises one of a radiographic film, a photostimulable phosphor [or] and a digital radiographic detector.